

The Naturalist

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INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE

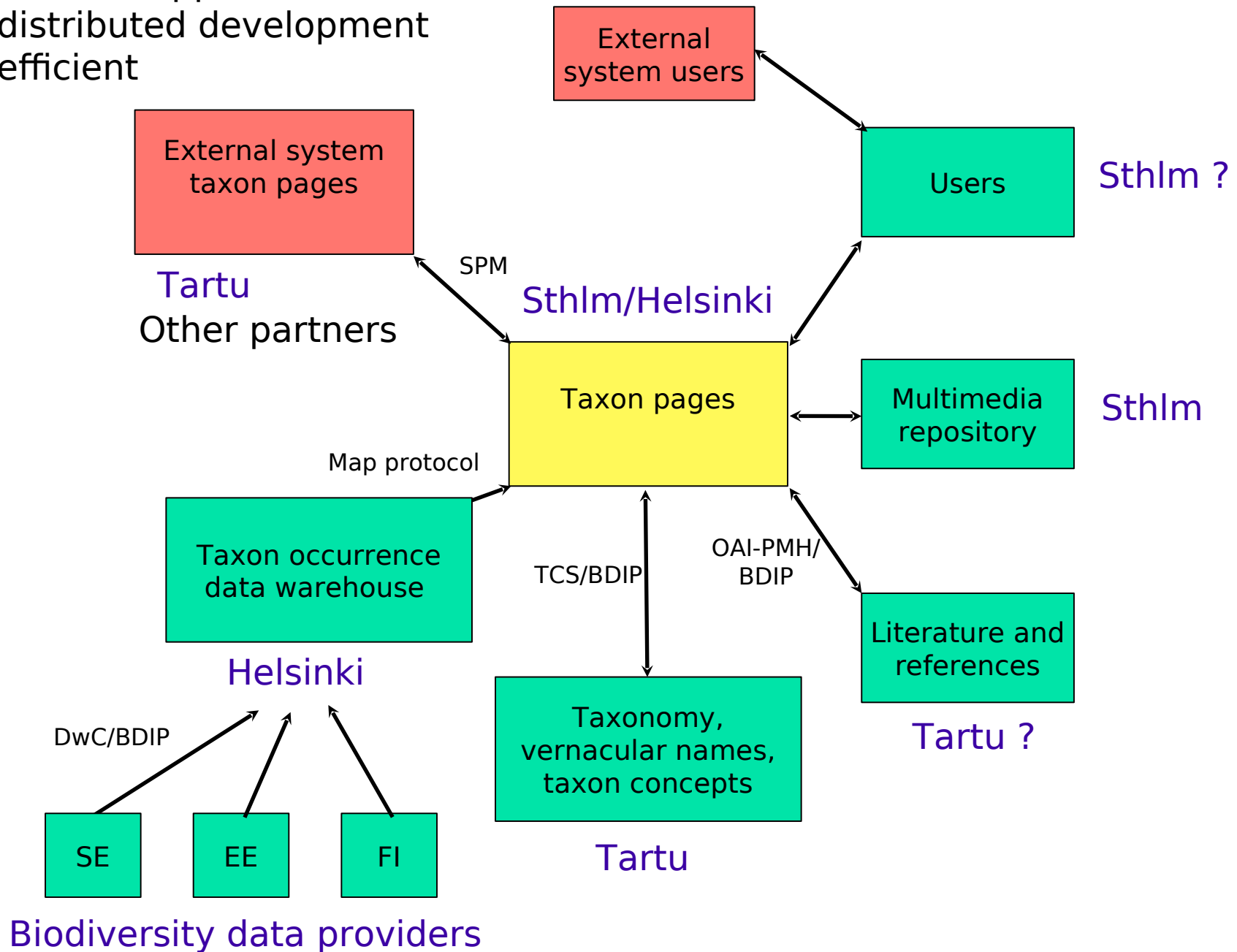
The Naturalist

- Species/taxon information system for citizen scientists, school children, students, general public, decision makers
 - Give an overview of Baltoscandian biodiversity data
 - Providing help in learning, exploring and identifying biodiversity
 - Entry point into more advanced resources
 - Improve quality of citizen-science biodiversity observations
- Available in four languages (English, Estonian, Finnish, Swedish)
- Includes all species occurring in the Nordic-Baltic region
- Core is structured text and carefully chosen multimedia
- Texts and media content follow international standard (SPM):
 - exchange content with neighboring countries
 - offer content to external projects, e.g. Encyclopedia of Life
- Dynamically generated content:
 - integrated Nordic-Baltic distribution maps
 - links to biodiversity data systems in all countries in the region
 - links to biodiversity reporting systems in the region
 - maps and links presented even when text and media are missing

The Naturalist (cont'd)

- Content from all partners, including:
 - Orthoptera (grasshoppers)
 - Odonata (dragonflies)
 - Coleoptera (beetles)
 - Fresh water bivalves
 - Invasive species
 - Vascular plants
 - Fossils (in linked system Paleobiodiversity in Baltoscandia)
- In numbers:
 - Complete text and multimedia for about 4,000 species (7 % of flora and fauna)
 - Baltoscandian maps for 30,000 species based on 50 M data records (50 % of flora and fauna)
 - At least name, classification and links for 55,000 species (90 % of flora and fauna)
- Infrastructure work draws from a number of existing projects, including:
 - Estonian NATARC (Natural history archives and information network)
 - Finnish Biodiversity Information Facility
 - Swedish Lifewatch
 - DINA-Specify open collection software consortium (<http://www.dina-project.net>)

Modular approach makes distributed development efficient



Nationalnyckeln



- National popular-science biodiversity encyclopedia in Swedish
- Produced by Artdatabanken (Swedish Species Information Centre in Uppsala) as part of the Swedish Taxonomy Initiative
- 15 volumes published in ten years, covering 2 600 species
- Book publication will be replaced by digital keys integrated with Artportalen (the Species Gateway) and taxon information in Naturforskaren

Strengths of The Naturalist

- Cost efficient:
 - Only texts and media have to be uploaded manually
 - Content can be exchanged between neighboring countries, texts possibly auto-translated
 - Less than 20 % of cost of book production per species (Nationalnyckeln)
- Better navigation than book presentations:
 - Simple search from everywhere
 - Links to look-alikes, host plants etc
 - Links to taxa from identification keys
- Dynamic maps
 - Always up to date
 - User can interact with the maps
 - ... but limited by data quality (historical data still lacking; potential problems like uncertain data points and reporting bias not accounted for)
- Better entry into other web resources
 - Automatically generated links directly to appropriate species/higher taxon
 - Customized links for each organism group, each country

Strengths of The Naturalist

- Better identification and learning help, generated automatically
 - Comparative 'plates' of media for underlying taxa
 - User-based comparison based on 'shopping cart'
 - User-generated quizzes
- Report observations directly from the system
- Automatic linking of terms in descriptions to definitions (ontologies)
- Puts Baltoscandia at the forefront in Europe (and the world) with respect to citizen-science platforms
- Benefits to society:
 - Increased environmental awareness
 - Improved life quality
 - Engaged citizens
 - Better informed decision makers
 - Better understanding of the transboundary nature of biodiversity (and of human culture and science...)

The Naturalist (Naturforskaren)

<http://naturforskaren.se>